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MAY 27 2008

RICHARD W. WIEKING
CLERK, U.S. DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

Attorneys for Defendant
SMITHKLINE BEECHAM CORPORATION d/b/a GLAXOSMITHKLINE

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION

BZ

HAROLD DOUGLAS EDWARDS, JUDY C. EDWARDS, LETHA D. ELAM, LEONARD EVANS, GINGER FIELDS, BILLY FIELDS, WILLIAM FULTON, LARRY GENTRY, JOHNNY GRIGSBY, VIRGINIA GUNTER, DONALD L. HAMLET, ELIZABETH HANNAH, WANDA HARVEY, PHYLLIS HEASLEY, LUCERY HENRY, JIMMY HENSON, BRENETTA HILL, CHARLES NOLAN HILL, GRANVILLE HOLLON, LORAINE JACKSON, KAREN KETCHEY

Plaintiffs,

v.

SMITHKLINE BEECHAM CORPORATION d/b/a GLAXOSMITHKLINE and McKESSON CORPORATION,

Defendants.

Case No. CV 08 2659

NOTICE OF REMOVAL AND REMOVAL ACTION UNDER 28 U.S.C. § 1441(B) (DIVERSITY) and 28 U.S.C. § 1441(C) (FEDERAL QUESTION) OF DEFENDANT SMITHKLINE BEECHAM CORPORATION d/b/a GLAXOSMITHKLINE

TO THE CLERK OF THE COURT:

Defendant Smithkline Beecham Corporation d/b/a GlaxoSmithKline ("GSK"), hereby removes to this court the state action described below. Removal is warranted

under 28 U.S.C. § 1441 because this is an action over which this Court has original jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331 and 1332.

I. BACKGROUND

1. On May 21, 2008, Plaintiffs Harold Douglas Edwards, Judy C. Edwards, Letha Elam, Leonard Evans, Ginger Fields, Billy Fields, William Fulton, Larry Gentry, Johnny Grigsby, Virginia Gunter, Donald Hamlet, Elizabeth Hannah, Wanda Harvey, Phyllis Heasley, Lucery Henry, Jimmy Henson, Brenetta Hill, Charles Hill, Granville Holon, Loraine Jackson and Karen Ketchey ("Plaintiffs"), represented by The Miller Firm of Orange, Virginia, commenced this action in the Superior Court of the State of California for the County of San Francisco. A true and correct copy of the Complaint in the action is attached as Exhibit "A " to the Declaration of Krista L. Cosner in Support of Notice of Removal and Removal Action under 28 U.S.C. § 1441(b) and 28 U.S.C. § 1441(c) (Federal Question) of Defendant SmithKline Beecham Corporation dba GlaxoSmithKline (hereinafter "Cosner Decl.").

2. Neither defendant has yet been served with Plaintiffs' Complaint. Cosner Decl., ¶9.

3. There have been no additional proceedings in the state court action.

4. This is one of many cases that have been filed recently in both federal and state court across the country involving the prescription drug Avandia®. Cosner Decl., ¶5. Plaintiffs' counsel, The Miller Firm, has filed Avandia cases in both state and federal courts, but only in the cases filed in California has The Miller Firm named McKesson, or any alleged distributor of Avandia, as a defendant. Cosner Decl., ¶6.

5. On October 16, 2007, the Judicial Panel on Multidistrict Litigation ("JPML") issued an order directing that then-pending Avandia-related cases be transferred and coordinated for pretrial proceedings in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, before the Honorable Cynthia M. Rufe, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1407. See Transfer Order, *In re Avandia Marketing, Sales Practices and Products Liability Litigation*, MDL 1871 (E.D.P.A.) (a true and correct copy of which is

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attached as Exhibit "B" to Cosner Decl.). Additional Avandia-related cases pending in federal court, which are common to the actions previously transferred to the Eastern District of Pennsylvania and assigned to Judge Rufe, are treated as potential tag-along actions. *See id.; see also* Rules 7.4 and 7.5, R.P.J.P.M.L. 199 F.R.D. 425, 435-36 (2001). GSK intends to seek the transfer of this action to that Multidistrict Litigation, *In re Avandia Marketing, Sales Practices and Products Liability Litigation*, MDL 1871, and shortly will provide the JPML with notice of this action pursuant to the procedure for "tag along" actions set forth in the rules of the JPML. Cosner Decl., ¶7.

6. As more fully set forth below, this case is properly removed to this Court pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1441 because GSK has satisfied the procedural requirements for removal and this Court has subject matter jurisdiction over this case pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331 and 1332.

II. DIVERSITY JURISDICTION

7. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1332 because this is a civil action in which the amount in controversy exceeds the sum of $75,000, exclusive of costs and interest, and is between citizens of different states.

A. There is Complete Diversity of Citizenship Between Plaintiffs and Defendants

8. The Complaint names twenty-one individual plaintiffs. *See* Cosner Decl., Exh. A, ¶¶ 10-30:

a. Plaintiff Harold Douglas Edwards alleges that he is a "resident" of the State of Kentucky. Accordingly, at the time this action was commenced, he was a citizen of the State of Kentucky. *Id.* at ¶ 10.

b. Plaintiff Judy C. Edwards alleges that she is a "resident" of the State of Tennessee. Accordingly, at the time this action was commenced, she was a citizen of the State of Tennessee. *Id.* at ¶ 11.

c. Plaintiff Letha D. Elam alleges that she is a "resident" of the State of Kentucky. Accordingly, at the time this action was commenced, she was a citizen of the

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State of Kentucky. *Id.* at ¶ 12.

d. Plaintiff Leonard Evans alleges that he is a "resident" of the State of Louisiana. Accordingly, at the time this action was commenced, he was a citizen of the State of Louisiana. *Id.* at ¶ 13.

e. Plaintiff Ginger Fields alleges that she is a "resident" of the State of Kentucky. Accordingly, at the time this action was commenced, she was a citizen of the State of Kentucky. *Id.* at ¶ 14.

f. Plaintiff Billy Fields alleges that he is a "resident" of the State of Kentucky. Accordingly, at the time this action was commenced, he was a citizen of the State of Kentucky. *Id.* at ¶ 15.

g. Plaintiff William Fulton alleges that he is a "resident" of the State of Kentucky. Accordingly, at the time this action was commenced, he was a citizen of the State of Kentucky. *Id.* at ¶ 16.

h. Plaintiff Larry Gentry alleges that he is a "resident" of the State of Tennessee. Accordingly, at the time this action was commenced, he was a citizen of the State of Tenessee. *Id.* at ¶ 17.

i. Plaintiff Johnny Grigsby alleges that he is a "resident" of the State of Kentucky. Accordingly, at the time this action was commenced, he was a citizen of the State of Kentucky. *Id.* at ¶ 18.

j. Plaintiff Virginia Gunter alleges that she is a "resident" of the State of Tennessee. Accordingly, at the time this action was commenced, she was a citizen of the State of Tennessee. *Id.* at ¶ 19.

k. Plaintiff Donald Hamlet alleges that he is a "resident" of the State of Kentucky. Accordingly, at the time this action was commenced, he was a citizen of the State of Kentucky. *Id.* at ¶ 20.

l. Plaintiff Elizabeth Hannah alleges that she is a "resident" of the State of Kentucky. Accordingly, at the time this action was commenced, she was a citizen of the State of Kentucky. *Id.* at ¶ 21.

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m. Plaintiff Wanda Harvey alleges that she is a "resident" of the State of Tennessee. Accordingly, at the time this action was commenced, she was a citizen of the State of Tennessee. *Id.* at ¶ 22.

n. Plaintiff Phyllis Heasley alleges that she is a "resident" of the State of Kentucky. Accordingly, at the time this action was commenced, she was a citizen of the State of Kentucky. *Id.* at ¶ 23.

o. Plaintiff Lucery Henry alleges that she is a "resident" of the State of Louisiana. Accordingly, at the time this action was commenced, she was a citizen of the State of Louisiana. *Id.* at ¶ 24.

p. Plaintiff Jimmy Henson alleges that he is a "resident" of the State of Kentucky. Accordingly, at the time this action was commenced, he was a citizen of the State of Kentucky. *Id.* at ¶ 25.

q. Plaintiff Brenetta Hill alleges that she is a "resident" of the State of Kentucky. Accordingly, at the time this action was commenced, she was a citizen of the State of Kentucky. *Id.* at ¶ 26.

r. Plaintiff Charles Nolan Hill alleges that he is a "resident" of the State of Louisiana. Accordingly, at the time this action was commenced, he was a citizen of the State of Louisiana. *Id.* at ¶ 27.

s. Plaintiff Granville Hollon alleges that he is a "resident" of the State of Tennessee. Accordingly, at the time this action was commenced, he was a citizen of the State of Tennessee. *Id.* at ¶ 28.

t. Plaintiff Loraine Jackson alleges that she is a "resident" of the State of Tennessee. Accordingly, at the time this action was commenced, she was a citizen of the State of Tennessee. *Id.* at ¶ 29.

u. Plaintiff Karen Ketchey alleges that she is a "resident" of the State of Kentucky. Accordingly, at the time this action was commenced, she was a citizen of the State of Kentucky. *Id.* at ¶ 30.

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9. GSK is, and was at the time Plaintiffs commenced this action, a corporation organized under the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania with its principal place of business in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and therefore, is a citizen of Pennsylvania for purposes of determining diversity. 28 U.S.C. § 1332(c)(1). Cosner Decl., ¶8.

10. The remaining named defendant, McKesson, is a Delaware corporation, with its principal place of business in San Francisco, California. Cosner Decl., Exh. C, ¶ 3. Accordingly, there is complete diversity of citizenship between plaintiffs and defendants.

B. The Amount In Controversy Requirement Is Satisfied

11. It is apparent on the face of the Complaint that Plaintiffs seek an amount in controversy in excess of $75,000, exclusive of costs and interest.

12. Plaintiffs allege that they ingested Avandia, and, as a result, "have suffered heart injury, excessive fluid retention, fluid-overload disease, liver damage, liver failure, stroke and severe injury to the heart leading to cardiac arrest," and have sustained, "physical and financial damages including pain and suffering." *See* Cosner Dec. Exh. A at ¶53. Plaintiffs further allege that Plaintiffs "suffered severe and permanent physical injuries" and endured substantial pain and suffering and extensive medical and surgical procedures." *See id.* at ¶70.

13. Plaintiffs allege that they have suffered economic loss, and have otherwise been physically, emotionally and economically injured, and that their injuries and damages are permanent and will continue into the future. *See* Cosner Dec. Exh. A at ¶70.

14. Plaintiffs seek actual and punitive damages. *See* Cosner Dec. Exh. A, Prayer for Relief.

15. Punitive damages are included in the calculation of the amount in controversy. See *Bell v. Preferred Life Assurance Society*, 320 U.S. 238, 240 (1943).

16. Given the allegations set forth above, the face of the Complaint makes clear that Plaintiffs seek in excess of $75,000, exclusive of interest and costs. See *Simmons v.*

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PCR Tech., 209 F. Supp. 2d 1029, 1031 (N.D. Cal. 2002).

C. The Citizenship of McKesson Must Be Ignored Because McKesson Has Not Been Properly Joined and Served

17. Under 28 U.S.C. § 1441(b), the so-called "forum defendant rule," an action is removable only if none of the parties in interest, *properly joined and served* as defendants, is a citizen of the State in which such action is brought. 28. U.S.C § 1441(b) (emphasis added).

18. McKesson, although a citizen of California, has not yet been served with the Complaint in this case. Cosner Decl., ¶9.

19. Accordingly, because there is complete diversity of citizenship and because no "properly joined and served defendant" is a citizen of this State, it is appropriate that this action be removed to this Court. *See Waldon v. Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corp.*, 2007 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 45809 (N.D. Cal. June 18, 2007); *see also* 28 U.S.C. § 1441(b).

D. The Citizenship Of McKesson Must Be Ignored Because McKesson Is Fraudulently Joined

20. A defendant is fraudulently joined, and its presence in the lawsuit is ignored for purposes of determining the propriety of removal, "if the plaintiff fails to state a cause of action against the resident defendant, and the failure is obvious according to the settled rules of the state." *Morris v. Princess Cruises, Inc.*, 236 F.3d 1061, 1067 (9th Cir. 2001); *see also Hamilton Materials, Inc. v. Dow Chemical Corporation*, 494 F.3d. 1203, 1206 (9th Cir. 2007).

21. McKesson is fraudulently joined because Plaintiffs have failed to make any specific material allegations against it. Plaintiffs do not even allege that they ingested Avandia that was distributed by McKesson, compelling the conclusion that Plaintiffs have fraudulently joined McKesson in an attempt to defeat diversity jurisdiction. *See, e.g., Brown v. Allstate Insur.*, 17 F. Supp. 2d 1134, 1137 (S.D. Cal. 1998) (finding in-state defendants fraudulently joined where "no material allegations against [the in-state defendants] are made"); *Lyons v. American Tobacco Co.*, No. Civ. A. 96-0881-BH-S, 1997 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 18365 (S.D. Ala. 1997) (holding that there is "no better admission

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of fraudulent joinder of [the resident defendant]" than the failure of the plaintiff "to set forth any specific factual allegations" against them). Plaintiffs cannot cure this deficiency by simply relying on allegations directed toward "Defendants" or GSK alone.

22. Plaintiffs specifically allege that GSK was engaged in the business of designing, developing, manufacturing, testing, packaging, promoting, marketing, distributing, labeling and/or selling Avandia. See Cosner Decl. Exh. A, at ¶31. Further, plaintiffs specifically allege that Avandia was created and marketed by GSK; that GSK had longstanding knowledge of Avandia-related dangers which GSK failed to adequately warn and disclose to consumers; that GSK concealed, suppressed and failed to disclose these referenced dangers; that GSK has represented and has continued to represent that it manufactures and/or sells safe and dependable pharmaceuticals; that GSK has failed to adequately warn or inform consumers, such as Plaintiffs or Plaintiffs' prescribing physicians of known defects in Avandia; and that as a result of GSK's omissions and/or misrepresentations, Plaintiffs ingested Avandia. *See id.* at ¶¶40, 44-46, 49 and 51.

23. Plaintiffs also claim, however, that McKesson "packaged, distributed, supplied, sold, placed into the stream of commerce, labeled, described, marketed, advertised, promoted and purported to warn or inform users regarding the risks pertaining to, and assuaged concerns about [ ] Avandia." *See id.* at ¶38. These allegations are inconsistent and contradictory, and courts have frequently viewed such inconsistencies as evidence of fraudulent joinder. *See Baisden v. Bayer Corp.*, 275 F. Supp. 2d 759, 762-763. (S.D. W.Va. 2003).

24. Plaintiffs assert claims of: (1) negligence; (2) negligent failure to adequately warn; (3) negligence per se; (4) negligent misrepresentation; (5) breach of express warranty; (6) breach of implied warranty; (7) strict products liability – defective design; (8) strict products liability – manufacturing and design defect; (9) strict products liability – failure to adequately warn; (10) fraudulent misrepresentation; (11) violations of California Unfair Trade Practices and Consumer Protection Law; (12) unjust enrichment; (13) loss of consortium and (14) punitive damages. In these allegations, Plaintiffs aver

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that collectively, "Defendants" or "Defendants GSK and McKesson," defectively designed and manufactured the product; concealed knowledge of unreasonably dangerous risks associated with the product; failed to conduct adequate and sufficient pre-clinical testing and post-marketing surveillance of the product; failed to provide FDA with complete and adequate information regarding the product; failed to warn consumers and/or their health care providers of certain risks associated with the product; failed to utilize adequate and non-misleading labeling; and made affirmative misrepresentations and omissions regarding the risks associated with taking Avandia. All of these claims are substantively based on the design and manufacture of the product, failure to warn, fraudulent concealment, and inadequate pre-clinical testing and post-marketing surveillance. As a wholesale distributor of Avandia, McKesson played no role in its testing, marketing or advertising. All McKesson did was pass along unopened boxes of Avandia, in unadulterated form, to hospitals and other businesses in the healthcare industry. *See* Cosner Decl. Exh. C, ¶¶ 6-7.[1]

25. Further, based on the "learned intermediary" doctrine, McKesson bore no duty to warn Plaintiffs. The "learned intermediary" doctrine, the foundation of prescription drug product liability law, provides that the duty to warn about a drug's risks runs from the manufacturer to the physician (the "learned intermediary"), and then from the physician to the patient. *See Brown v. Superior Court (Abbott Labs.)*, 44 Cal. 3d 1049, 1061-62, n.9 (1988); *Carlin v. Superior Court (Upjohn Co.)*, 13 Cal. 4th 1104, 1116 (1996). It is the physician, and only the physician, who is charged with prescribing the appropriate drug and communicating the relevant risks to the patient. *See Brown*, 44

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[1] The Declaration of McKesson's representative, Greg Yonko may be considered by the Court in determining whether McKesson is fraudulently joined. *Maffei v. Allstate California Ins. Co.*, 412 F.Supp.2d 1049 (E.D. Cal. 2006) ("[t]he court may pierce the pleadings, consider the entire record, and determine the basis of joinder by any means available") *citing Lewis v. Time, Inc.*, 83 F.R.D. 455 (E.D. Cal. 1979) ("it is well settled that upon allegations of fraudulent joinder...federal courts may look beyond the pleadings to determine if the joinder...is a sham or fraudulent device to prevent removal"). *See also Ritchey v. Upjohn Drug Co.*, 139 F.3d 1313, 1318-19 (9th Cir. 1998) (evidence may be presented by the removing party that there is no factual basis for the claims pleaded against the local defendant).

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Cal. 3d at 1061-62.

26. GSK and the FDA prepared the information to be included with the prescription drug, Avandia, with the FDA having final approval of the information that could be presented. Once the FDA has determined the form and content of the information, it is a violation of federal law to augment the information. *See* 21 U.S.C. §331(k) (prohibiting drug manufacturers and distributors from causing the "alteration, mutilation, destruction, obliteration, or removal of the whole or any part of the labeling" of an FDA-approved drug held for sale); *Brown v. Superior Court*, 44 Cal.3d 1049, 1069 n.12 (noting that the FDA regulates the testing, manufacturing, and marketing of drugs, including the content of their warning labels). Therefore, any safety and warning information McKesson had about Avandia would have come from GSK in the form of FDA-approved packaging and labeling. McKesson could not change the labeling it was given by GSK as approved by the FDA without violating federal law. No duty can be found where it requires a party to violate the law to fulfill it.

27. As such, given the lack of a causal connection between the injuries alleged by Plaintiffs and McKesson's conduct, as well as the absence of any legal or factual basis for Plaintiffs' claims against McKesson, McKesson's joinder is fraudulent and its citizenship should be ignored for purposes of determining the propriety of removal.

III. FEDERAL QUESTION JURISDICTION

28. This Court has federal question jurisdiction over Plaintiffs' claims under 28 U.S.C. § 1331 and the principles set forth in *Grable & Sons Metal Prods., Inc. v. Darue Eng'g & Mfg.*, 125 S. Ct. 2363 (2005).

29. As more fully explained below, Plaintiffs have made violations of federal law critical elements of several of their claims.

A. Plaintiffs' Claims Require Construction and Application of the FDCA and Its Implementing Regulations

30. Count III of Plaintiffs' Complaint, "Negligence Per Se," explicitly alleges that defendants violated federal law. Plaintiffs claim, *inter alia*, that "[d]efendants

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violated the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act, 21 U.S.C. Section 301 *et seq.*, related amendments and codes and federal regulations provided thereunder, and other applicable laws, statutes, and regulations." *See* Cosner Decl. Exh A, ¶ 74.

31. Plaintiffs further claim that "[d]efendants' acts constituted an adulteration and/or misunderstanding *[sic]* as defined by the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act, 21 U.S.C. § 331. . . ." *See* Cosner Decl. Exh A, ¶ 76.

32. Moreover, Count II of the Plaintiffs' Complaint, "Negligent Failure to Adequately Warn," and Count IX, "Strict Products Liability – Failure to Adequately Warn," also require construction and application of the FDCA and implementing federal regulations, which govern approval of prescription drugs and regulate prescription drug manufacturers' public and promotional statements, including all aspects of warnings and labeling.

33. As a currently-marketed prescription drug, Avandia is subject to extensive regulation by the FDA. The FDCA requires the FDA to ensure that "drugs are safe and effective" for their intended uses, 21 U.S.C. § 393(b)(2)(B), in part by "promptly and officially reviewing clinical research and taking appropriate action on the marketing of regulated products." 21 U.S.C. § 393(b)(1). The Secretary of the FDA has the authority to promulgate regulations to enforce the FDCA, which are codified in the *Code of Federal Regulations*, 21 C.F.R. § 200, *et seq.* *See* 21 U.S.C. § 371(a).

34. To accomplish its purpose, the FDA maintains a Center for Drug Evaluation and Research (the "CDER"). The CDER regulates pharmaceutical companies' development, testing and research, and manufacture of drugs. The CDER examines data generated by these companies to conduct a risk/benefit analysis and make an approval decision. The CDER also ensures truthful advertising for prescription drugs, in part by approving Package Inserts that properly outline benefit and risk information. Once drugs are marketed, the CDER continues to monitor them for unexpected health risks that may require public notification, a change in labeling, or removal of the product from the market. In short, the CDER evaluates and monitors the effectiveness and safety

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of prescription drugs. *See* http://www.fda.gov/cder/about/faq/default.htm.

35. Promotional communications to physicians about Avandia are contained within, and restricted by, warning, labeling, and promotional materials, such as the Package Insert, that are approved and monitored by the FDA to ensure the provision of accurate information about the drug's respective risks and benefits. Under federal regulations, even claims in promotional labeling or advertising must be consistent with approved labeling. 21 C.F.R. § 202.1(e)(4) (2005).

36. The FDA's responsibility to regulate prescription drugs sold in the United States, and to enforce laws with respect to such drugs, inclusive of the precise content and format of prescription drug labeling (e.g., the instructions, warning, precautions, adverse reaction information provided by manufacturers, and marketing materials), is plenary and exclusive. *See* 21 U.S.C. § 301, *et seq.*

37. Plaintiffs have explicitly alleged violations of federal law in their "Negligence Per Se" claim, and have made alleged violations of federal law a critical element of their "Negligent Failure to Adequately Warn" and "Strict Products Liability – Failure to Adequately Warn" claims. Accordingly, Plaintiffs' claims necessarily raise substantial federal questions by requiring the Court to construe and apply the FDCA and its implementing regulations.

B. Federal Control of Drug Labeling and Warning

38. On January 24, 2006, the FDA announced a rule that includes a detailed and emphatic statement of the FDA's intention that its regulation and approval of prescription drug labeling preempt most state law claims related to the adequacy of prescription drug warnings because such claims frustrate "the full objectives of the Federal law." *See* Requirements on Content and Format of Labeling for Human Prescription Drug and Biologic Products, 71 Fed. Reg. 3922, 3934 (Jan. 24, 2006) ("FDA believes that under existing preemption principles, FDA approval of labeling under the act. . . . preempts conflicting or contrary State law."). *See also In re Bextra and Celebrex Marketing,* 2006 WL 2374742 (N.D. Cal., August 16, 2006) (Celebrex

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decision); *In re Bextra and Celebrex Marketing*, 2006 WL 2472484 (N.D. Cal., August 24, 2006) (Bextra decision);

39. Plaintiffs allege that GSK failed to disclose certain risks of Avandia. *See e.g.*, Cosner Decl. Exh. A, ¶ 45-47. This allegation necessarily requires Plaintiffs to establish that the FDA, which has exclusive jurisdiction over the labeling of drugs, would have approved the warning the Plaintiffs allege should have been given.

40. Accordingly, there is a substantial federal question with respect to whether Plaintiffs can claim that GSK violated state law in light of the FDA's control of Avandia's labeling and warning and its position on conflict preemption.

C. The Federal Interest In Providing A Forum

41. The federal government has a strong interest in having a federal court decide several of the issues in this case. Among these issues are:

a. whether any conduct of GSK violated any federal laws or regulations related to the labeling and marketing of Avandia; and

b. whether the FDA-approved Avandia label was false and misleading, as alleged by Plaintiff, and whether a state may impose liability on GSK for not providing more information regarding alleged risks, as Plaintiff contends GSK should have done.

42. Plaintiffs' claims may be vindicated or defeated only by construction of federal statutes and regulations. The availability of a federal forum to protect the important federal interests at issue is therefore consistent with *Grable*, and determination by a federal court of the substantial and disputed federal issues that lie at the heart of this case would not "disturb any congressionally approved balance of federal and state judicial responsibilities." *Grable*, 125 S. Ct. at 2368.

IV. CONFORMANCE WITH PROCEDURAL REQUIREMENTS

43. This Court has jurisdiction over this matter based on federal question and diversity of citizenship, and the present lawsuit may be removed from the Superior Court of the State of California for the County of San Francisco, and brought before the United States District Court for the Northern District of California pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§

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1331, 1332 and 1441.

44. Neither GSK nor McKesson have been served with Plaintiffs' Complaint. Cosner Decl. ¶4. Therefore, this Removal has been timely filed. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 1446(b).

45. Since neither GSK nor McKesson have been "properly joined and served" at the time of filing this Removal, GSK is entitled to removal under the plain language of 28 U.S.C. § 1441(b). *See Waldon v. Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corp.*, 2007 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 45809 (N.D. Cal. June 18, 2007). *See also* 28 U.S.C. § 1441(b); Cosner Decl. ¶4.

46. McKesson's consent to remove is not necessary because it is fraudulently joined. *See also, e.g., Easley v. 3M Company, et al.*, 2007 WL 2888335 (N.D. Cal. 2007) citing *Emrich v. Touche Ross & Co.*, 846 F.2d 1190, 1193 n.1 (9th Cir. 1988).

47. The United States District Court for the Northern District of California is the federal judicial district encompassing the Superior Court of the State of California for the County of San Francisco, where this suit was originally filed. Venue therefore is proper in this district under 28 U.S.C. § 1441(a).

48. Pursuant to the provisions of 28 U.S.C §1 446(d), GSK will promptly file a copy of this Notice of Removal with the clerk of the Superior Court of the State of California for the County of San Francisco, where this suit was originally filed.

49. Defendant reserves the right to amend or supplement this Notice of Removal.

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WHEREFORE, GSK respectfully removes this action from the Superior Court of the State of California for the County of San Francisco to the United States District Court for the Northern District of California, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1441.

Dated: May 27, 2008

DRINKER BIDDLE & REATH LLP

KRISTA L. COSNER

Attorneys for Defendant
SMITHKLINE BEECHAM CORPORATION d/b/a GLAXOSMITHKLINE

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CIVIL COVER SHEET

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JS 44 - CAND (Rev. 11/04)

The JS-44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON PAGE TWO.)

I. (a) PLAINTIFFS
HAROLD DOUGLAS EDWARDS, ET AL.

E-filing

BZ

DEFENDANTS
SMITHKLINE BEECHAM CORPORATION d/b/a GLAXOSMITHKLINE, and McKESSON CORPORATION,

(b) COUNTY OF RESIDENCE OF FIRST LISTED PLAINTIFF KENTUCKY
(EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)

COUNTY OF RESIDENCE OF FIRST LISTED DEFENDANT Philadelphia, PA
(IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY)
NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF THE TRACT OF LAND INVOLVED.

(c) ATTORNEYS (FIRM NAME, ADDRESS, AND TELEPHONE NUMBER)
David C. Andersen
The Miller Firm, LLC
108 Railroad Avenue
Orange, VA 22960
(540) 672-4224

ATTORNEYS (IF KNOWN)
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II. BASIS OF JURISDICTION (PLACE AN 'X' IN ONE BOX ONLY)

- ☐ 1 U.S. Government Plaintiff
- ☐ 3 Federal Question (U.S. Government Not a Party)
- ☐ 2 U.S. Government Defendant
- ☒ 4 Diversity (Indicate Citizenship of Parties in Item III)

III. CITIZENSHIP OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES (PLACE AN 'X' IN ONE BOX FOR PLAINTIFF AND ONE BOX FOR DEFENDANT)
(For diversity cases only)

	PTF	DEF		PTF	DEF
Citizen of This State	☐ 1	☐ 1	Incorporated or Principal Place of Business In This State	☐ 4	☒ 4
Citizen of Another State	☒ 2	☐ 2	Incorporated and Principal Place of Business In Another State	☐ 5	☒ 5
Citizen or Subject of a Foreign Country	☐ 3	☐ 3	Foreign Nation	☐ 6	☐ 6

IV. ORIGIN (PLACE AN "X" IN ONE BOX ONLY)

- ☐ 1 Original Proceeding
- ☒ 2 Removed from State Court
- ☐ 3 Remanded from Appellate Court
- ☐ 4 Reinstated or Reopened
- ☐ 5 Transferred from Another district (specify)
- ☐ 6 Multidistrict Litigation
- ☐ 7 Appeal to District Judge from Magistrate Judgment

V. NATURE OF SUIT (PLACE AN "X" IN ONE BOX ONLY)

CONTRACT
- ☐ 110 Insurance
- ☐ 120 Marine
- ☐ 130 Miller Act
- ☐ 140 Negotiable Instrument
- ☐ 150 Recovery of Overpayment & Enforcement of Judgment
- ☐ 151 Medicare Act
- ☐ 152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loans (Excl Veterans)
- ☐ 153 Recovery of Overpayment of Veteran's Benefits
- ☐ 160 Stockholders Suits
- ☐ 190 Other Contract
- ☐ 195 Contract Product Liability
- ☐ 196 Franchise

REAL PROPERTY
- ☐ 210 Land Condemnation
- ☐ 220 Foreclosure
- ☐ 230 Rent Lease & Ejectment
- ☐ 240 Torts to Land
- ☐ 245 Tort Product Liability
- ☐ 290 All Other Real Property

TORTS

PERSONAL INJURY
- ☐ 310 Airplane
- ☐ 315 Airplane Product Liability
- ☐ 320 Assault Libel & Slander
- ☐ 330 Federal Employers Liability
- ☐ 340 Marine
- ☐ 345 Marine Product Liability
- ☐ 350 Motor Vehicle
- ☐ 355 Motor Vehicle Product Liability
- ☐ 360 OtherPersonalInjury

PERSONAL INJURY
- ☐ 362 Personal Injury Med Malpractice
- ☒ 365 Personal Injury Product Liability
- ☐ 368 Asbestos Personal Injury Product Liability

PERSONAL PROPERTY
- ☐ 370 Other Fraud
- ☐ 371 Truth in Lending
- ☐ 380 Other Personal Property Damage
- ☐ 385 Property Damage Product Liability

CIVIL RIGHTS
- ☐ 441 Voting
- ☐ 442 Employment
- ☐ 443 Housing
- ☐ 444 Welfare
- ☐ 440 Other Civil Rights
- ☐ 445 Amer w/ disab - Empl
- ☐ 446 Amer w/ disab - Other

PRISONER PETITIONS
- ☐ 510 Motion to Vacate Sentence
- Habeas Corpus:
- ☐ 530 General
- ☐ 535 Death Penalty
- ☐ 540 Mandamus & Other
- ☐ 550 Civil Rights
- ☐ 555 Prison Condition

FORFEITURE/PENALTY
- ☐ 610 Agriculture
- ☐ 620 Other Food & Drug
- ☐ 625 Drug Related Seizure of Property 21 USC 881
- ☐ 630 Liquor Laws
- ☐ 640 RR & Truck
- ☐ 650 Airline Regs
- ☐ 660 Occupational Safety/Health
- ☐ 690 Other

LABOR
- ☐ 710 Fair Labor Standards Act
- ☐ 720 Labor/Mgmt Relations
- ☐ 730 Labor/Mgmt Reporting & Disclosure Act
- ☐ 740 Railway Labor Act
- ☐ 790 Other Labor Litigation
- ☐ 791 Empl. Ret. Inc. Security Act

BANKRUPTCY
- ☐ 422 Appeal 28 USC 158
- ☐ 423 Withdrawal 28 USC 157

PROPERTY RIGHTS
- ☐ 820 Copyrights
- ☐ 830 Patent
- ☐ 840 Trademark

SOCIAL SECURITY
- ☐ 861 HIA (1395ff)
- ☐ 862 Black Lung (923)
- ☐ 863 DIWC/DIWW (405(g))
- ☐ 864 SSID Title XVI
- ☐ 865 RSI (405(g))

FEDERAL TAX SUITS
- ☐ 870 Taxes (US Plaintiff or Defendant)
- ☐ 871 IRS - Third Party 26 USC 7609

OTHER STATUTES
- ☐ 400 State Reapportionment
- ☐ 410 Antitrust
- ☐ 430 Banks and Banking
- ☐ 450 Commerce/ICC Rates/etc.
- ☐ 460 Deportation
- ☐ 470 Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations
- ☐ 480 Consumer Credit
- ☐ 490 Cable/Satellite TV
- ☐ 810 Selective Service
- ☐ 850 Securities/Commodities/ Exchange
- ☐ 875 Customer Challenge 12 USC 3410
- ☐ 891 Agricultural Acts
- ☐ 892 Economic Stabilization Act
- ☐ 893 Environmental Matters
- ☐ 894 Energy Allocation Act
- ☐ 895 Freedom of Information Act
- ☐ 900 Appeal of Fee Determination Under Equal Access to Justice
- ☐ 950 Constitutionality of State Statutes
- ☐ 890 Other Statutory Actions

VI. CAUSE OF ACTION (CITE THE US CIVIL STATUTE UNDER WHICH YOU ARE FILING AND WRITE BRIEF STATEMENT OF CAUSE. DO NOT CITE JURISDICTIONAL STATUTES UNLESS DIVERSITY)
28 U.S.C. Section 1332

VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT: ☐ CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTION DEMAND $ See Below UNDER F.R.C.P. 23 In excess of jurisdictional amount.
CHECK YES only if demanded in complaint: JURY DEMAND: ☒ YES ☐ NO

VIII. RELATED CASE(S) IF ANY PLEASE REFER TO CIVIL L.R. 3-12 CONCERNING REQUIREMENT TO FILE "NOTICE OF RELATED CASE".

IX. DIVISIONAL ASSIGNMENT (CIVIL L.R. 3-2)
(PLACE AN "X" IN ONE BOX ONLY) ☒ SAN FRANCISCO/OAKLAND ☐ SAN JOSE

DATE May 27 2008 SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY OF RECORD Krista L. Cosner

NDC-JS44